

W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

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May 1, 1985

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Radio Marti to Start Broadcasting
and much, much more!



Voice Subband Proposed for Caribbean Hams

The FCC has initiated a proceeding looking toward allowing phone operation in the 7075-7100 kHz frequency band for U.S. licensed amateurs residing in the Caribbean Insular Areas. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is in response to a petition (RM-4872) filed last November 6th by David Novoa, KP4AM, an Extra Class amateur residing in Puerto Rico. He requested that telephony privileges be extended to General, Advanced and Extra Class operators.

The Caribbean Insular Area includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Navassa Island and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Novoa also requested that Descheo Island, a part of Puerto Rico, be included.

In support of his petition, Novoa stated that FCC-licensed amateurs in the Caribbean are situated similarly to amateurs in Hawaii and Alaska who were recently granted phone privileges identical to those he requested.

The FCC authorized phone operation last July in the 7075-7100 kHz segment of the 40 meter band in Hawaii and in areas near Region 3, including Alaska. The Commission did so to permit FCC-licensed amateur operators near Region 3 to communicate with amateur operators in Region 3 already authorized voice operation in this band. The FCC also sought to provide these amateur operators with relief from the interference they were

experiencing from shortwave broadcast stations in Regions 1 and 3.

Novoa said in his petition that the Caribbean is now the only area outside the continental United States under U.S. jurisdiction in which U.S. amateur operators may not operate radio telephony in the 7075-7100 segment. He said broadcast interference renders the 7100-7300 kHz segment of the 40 meter band almost useless at night.

Novoa maintains that amateur use by U.S. licensed Caribbean amateurs "would promote international goodwill and not cause detrimental interference to telegraphy operators in the continental U.S. because of the limited number of potential users."

The FCC received nine comments on the petition - all from amateurs residing outside the continental U.S. - and all favoring expanding phone privileges in the 7075-7100 kHz band. Two commenters suggested limiting the proposed telephony privileges to only Advanced and Extra class operators "to minimize interference to amateur telegraphy and teleprinting operations."

Randall F. Sobol, KH6XX, a Hawaiian amateur, suggested expanding the telephony segment to 7050-7100 kHz "because authorization is pending for a commercial shortwave station to operate above 7100 kHz." He said

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the FCC should permit voice operation in the 7050-7100 kHz segment for all amateur stations located outside the continental forty-eight states.

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(Action by FCC, PR Docket 85-105, 4/5/85)

REACTIONS TO ALABAMA 20-kHz 2-M PLAN

The abrupt Alabama decision to adopt the 20 kHz band plan for 2-meter repeaters is causing quite a stir in the southeast... to put it mildly! Rumors and strong comments are plentiful!

Tennessee and Georgia amateurs are apparently not aware that effective July 1st, Alabama will be on a 2-meter plan that will cause them interference. The out-of-state reaction is one of dis-interest. Georgia has no frequency coordinator although one report said that a group has now been hastily formed in the Atlanta area. Alabama coordinators were handling Georgia repeaters for a while.

Many Alabama repeater owners do not seem to know who is on the Alabama VHF-UHF Council. We have learned, however, that Bill Matthews, WA4ZVJ, (Decatur, AL) is the Chairman and Coordinator, along with eight other coordinators who represent different parts of the state. I have been unable to speak to Matthews although I called him several times.

I was able to reach Bert "Hop" Hayes, K4TQR, a Council director who represents the central part of the state. Alabama is divided into four sections - each with two elected directors. These Directors are voted by Council membership. Not all repeater owners are members.

Hayes told me that the changeover was going smoothly. "I'm getting no adverse comments," he said. "Everyone understands why we are doing it. It is no problem at all. (My mail indicates otherwise.) We want to do it

now before this 'reverse split business' gets so bad we can't do anything about it."

Hayes said "We are not going to 20 kHz (spacing) to get the jump on Tennessee, Florida and Georgia. We are doing it primarily because they can't do anything until we do something. They want 20 kHz."

I asked Hayes why the Council is so 'pro-20 KHz spacing.' "We are of the opinion that within 5 to 10 years that FM is going to be a dinosaur. It will be outmoded by more efficient means of communication. We feel that narrow band compandored sideband (ACSB) will come in."

"By increasing to 20 KC we will be able to double the available repeater pairs by inserting ACSB repeater pairs in between the FM channels. Eventually FM will be phased out completely in favor of more efficient modes. You can't insert ACSB channels into a 15 KC separation scheme. ACSB needs only 3 KC bandwidth and offers twice the available range. Alabama is looking ahead."

Some repeater owners have ordered new crystals to conform to the new plan... others feel that there is no reason to buy the crystals since the council's plan is just a "suggestion". An eastern Alabama repeater owner (on a 15 kHz splinter) has "seceded" and stated he will not change, regardless, since nobody asked his opinion.

At least one well-known Birmingham repeater (WA4CYA) was left out of the new band plan and their frequency pair given to another machine. The repeater (for some unknown reason) was regarded as "non-coordinated" even though listed in the ARRL Repeater Directory. The repeater has since been offered new pairs.

Several amateurs favor the change... but not the way it was done. "It has made Alabama the laughing stock of the ham world, and will help bring about a national coordinator," another said. At least two area repeaters have changed frequency already... more will by May.

The Birmingham HamFest (May 18-19) promises to be a real shoot-out, since the

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"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a Volunteer Examiner. I have never had my station or amateur license suspended or suspended for any reason." WA4CYA

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amateur communications and should be encouraged by more experimentation, including automatic control which is both feasible and necessary to facilitate further development in the art of amateur radio."

The FCC said they invited amateur operators - particularly those experienced in automatic control - to submit comments calling to their attention any problems that may arise by expanding automatic control to encompass all amateur radio operations.

"Our goal is to keep the amateur service abreast of technological developments and to utilize new technology, such as CBMS, where appropriate," the FCC stated. "On the other hand, we do not want to introduce any innovations into the service which would be disruptive of amateur communications or which would essentially change the character of the service." Comments are due on or before June 25, 1985, reply comments by July 25.

(Action by FCC NPRM/Docket 85-105, 4/5/85)

RF LIGHTING DEVICE RULEMAKING....

We have been told that the FCC will be adopting a new official stance on RF lighting within 60 days. RF energized light bulbs costs the consumer approximately 5% less to operate to obtain the same amount of light. The FCC position will either place stricter radiation limits on RF lighting - or will support a voluntary industry standard. The FCC Order on Docket 83-806 will also also address other standards for ISM (industrial, scientific and medical equipment standards) of which RF lighting is a part.

The NAB (National Association of Broadcasters) position is that present RF lighting guidelines do not hold RF lighting emissions to a tolerable limit and pose an interference threat to AM radio reception. Amateur radio operators who use sensitive radio receivers (and the ARRL who has tested them) are also concerned about this.

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER? Under The W5YI Report program. If so please send a copy of your Extra Class license, this statement, and a SASE to:
W5YI-VEC, P.O. Box #10101, Dallas, Texas 75207
You will receive a booklet on how the Volunteer Program operates and how to go about giving tests immediately.

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•The FCC has proposed a cost-of-regulation fee structure for its services which includes payments for FCC equipment approval. Type-approval (with testing) will cost industry \$150 (without testing \$100), type-acceptance \$325., certification of receivers \$250 - other devices: \$650. The fee schedule includes licensing various services and annual fees for broadcast stations. The FCC says they could collect \$50 million - more than half their annual budget. Like taxes - receipts go to the "general fund", not to the FCC.

•Tandy (Radio Shack) is not doing well these days. Their share of the European computer market has dropped to 3% (it was 9%). Tandy has taken massive write-offs in the U.S... some \$18 million. Their earnings nose-dived in the third quarter and Tandy is pinning recovery hopes on IBM compatibility. The Tandy-1000, introduced just 6 months ago, is selling, and according to Business Week, has helped reverse a "year-long slide in sales at Tandy Computer stores." Rumors that Radio Shack is discontinuing its popular Model 4 are denied - but its days are numbered.

•CB Channel 19 used to be widely used for smoky-reports. Now smoky is fighting back by applying for radio use of TV Channel 19. It is causing quite a commotion in Los Angeles broadcast circles. UHF-TV Channel 19 has been assigned by the FCC to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for land mobile use. Broadcasters are worried about potential interference to other television stations and says that an adequate showing of the need for UHF-TV spectrum has not been made.

•Major movie studios (Paramount is one of them) are making a move toward garnering some of the lucrative pay-TV market. They reason that if consumers will pay \$2.00 to rent video-taped movies, they will pay \$2.00 to watch it at home without having to pick it up and return it. Home video has leapfrogged far beyond pay TV and film makers don't share in the rental market. Rumors call for movie studios to satellite direct broadcast scrambled films to cable operators during the "normal videocassette window." Five million homes can now receive addressable PPV (pay-per-view) programming and that number could hit 20 million next year!

FAST 'N FURIOUS - Telecommunications News

•The FCC has proposed allowing consumers to buy their own inside telephone wiring from other than the telephone company... just as telephones can now be bought. The FCC says that detariffing wiring installation will reduce their regulatory cost, increase competition, promote new market entry and save money to the public by enabling others - such as electricians, home improvement contractors and home builders - to provide wiring in competition with the phone company.

•A large multi-system cable company has a new marketing wrinkle. Jones Intercable will start offering a new cable program/VCR package next month. Subscribers that sign a two year contract (for \$44.95 a month) will not only get basic and two pay cable TV services, but a General Electric video cassette recorder as well which they will own at the end of the two year period.

•David Newkirk, AK7M, (an ex-ARRL staffer who wrote "How's DX" in QST for 30 years) has published the first issue of his new "Enjoying Radio" - a 20 page typewritten general information newsletter. It is outspoken and very different. For one thing you read it from back to front - the first page is Page 20. Subscription cost is \$19.50 for "increments of 240 pages." Apparently no set publication periods. He asks for editorial contributions "within the limits of the libel laws." It will be interesting to see how this one develops!

•Look for long distance telephone and data service to be offered direct to your own privately owned backyard satellite dish! Satellite operators are gearing up for it once higher power (40-50 watt Ku band transponders) become available! The service will completely bypass your local telephone company. The two way system costs \$10,000 and will be aimed initially at small business.

•Sony is working on a wrist-worn telephone, video and data system that utilizes 15,000 watts of primary power beamed from a 180-foot space platform-mounted orbiting reflector. It will provide 30-40 separate beams covering the continental U.S. Sony wants to market the product to consumers by 2004!

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••••

BROADCAST RF RADIATION REGULATION

In an initial effort to regulate radio frequency radiation (RFR) through its licensing process, the FCC has amended its broadcast rules to provide for license denial to any commercial radio station that does not comply with the 1982 ANSI RFR emission standard.

Effective October 1, 1985, radio stations filing applications will have to certify that its emissions fall below the ANSI standard. These stations will be responsible for conducting tests and measurements to determine if their facility exceeds the ANSI criterion.

Broadcast stations that exceed the guideline will have to file a "narrative statement" which, along with an Environmental Impact Statement, will be used to determine whether the application should be granted. The FCC will issue a technical bulletin explaining the format of the required narrative statement this fall.

The FCC is still awaiting an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) mandated radiation standard and the FCC adopted ANSI guideline is considered temporary until the EPA develops this. Amateur radio stations are excluded from these rules.

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AMATEUR FILES VE PROGRAM PETITION

Robert A. Scupp, WB5YYX, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has filed comments on the FCC's proposal to eliminate the 30 day period that a amateur radio operator test applicant must wait before retaking a failed test and elimination of the public announcement requirement for tests intended for less than five applicants.

Scupp also has petitioned the FCC at the same time to accept the Certificate of Successful Completion as evidence of passing written as well as Morse Code examinations. Scupp says that VE teams are required to re-examine applicants for tests previously passed if their license has not been received by the time the applicant seeks to upgrade further. He argues that this is very burdensome to VE's and VEC's and necessitates the FCC's Gettysburg facility having to process two applications for the same examination element.

In our own VEC Program, we have elected to hold upgrade applications (when a recently upgraded license photocopy is not attached) here at the W5YI-VEC office. We then write the applicant and ask that the license copy be sent to us when received for subsequent forwarding to Gettysburg. It really is an unnecessary paperwork burden and expense to us, but that is one of the options the FCC in Gettysburg gave us. No one... applicants, VE's or VEC's... like present FCC handling of these instances, but rules are rules.

There must be more to this than we know since it would be very simple for the FCC to accept a VE's or VEC's certification that an applicant has indeed passed the necessary requirements on a previous upgrade. All that is necessary is to attach a copy of the Certificate of Successful Completion showing that the applicant did indeed upgrade on a specific date. Hopefully the FCC will allow this.

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...The FCC has granted us permission to be the second VEC to distribute license preparation materials. We have the following materials in stock now for "same day" shipment. All manuals have the exact questions, answers and distractors (wrong answers) used on both W5YI and ARRL administered examinations in addition to information as to why each answer is correct. (Include \$1.50 for 1st Class Postage... \$1.00 on Novice Guide/Test)

FCC-Element 2 (Novice) Study Guide	\$3.00
FCC-Element 2 (Novice) Test (for VEs)	\$1.50
FCC-Element 3 (Tech/Gen) Study Guide	\$5.00
FCC-Element 4A (Advan.) Study Guide	\$5.00
FCC-Element 4B (Extra) Study Guide	\$4.00
The FCC Rule Book - Part 97 (159p)	\$3.00

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AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS...

issued as of the first of April 1985:

Radio District	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Advan.	Gp."C" Tech/Gen	Gp."D" Novice
0	KJ0U	KD0WC	N0GBK	KA0UJA
1	KY1Y	KB1RZ	N1DLZ	KA1MVE
2	NJ2H	KD2MC	N2FLK	KA2YCD
3	KV3L	KC3RM	N3EHO	KA3NWL
4	(1)AA4II	KJ4BP	N4LTN	KB4NNR
5	NU5Y	KE5YK	N5HVK	KA5VUH
6	WF6W	KG6QM	N6LVC	KB6IIN
7	NM7U	KE7FD	N7GZO	KA7VCU
8	NK8W	KD8XM	N8GJJ	KA8WFL
9	ND9X	KD9OK	N9FCJ	KA9TIZ

NOTES:

(1.) The fourth call district will be the first in the continental U.S. to run out of Group "A" call signs, (although there are still over 6,500 left.) The FCC is now issuing the last Group "A" block, AA4 through AK4 by two letters. No "AH4" will be issued since these are reserved for Midway Island.

CALL SIGN ASSIGNMENT SEQUENCE...

for continental United States.

Extra by 1	Advan. by 2	Tech/Gen by 3	Novice by 3 ltrs.
NA-NZ	KA-KZ	N	KA-KZ
WA-WZ	NA-NZ	W(*)	WA-WZ
by 2	WA-WZ	Gp."D"	

AA-AK Gp."C"
Gp."B"

<u>(Except:</u>	NH,NP,	KH,KL	None	KH,KL
	WH,WP,	KP,WK,		KP,WK,
	AH	NL,NP,		WH,WK,
		WH,WL,		WL,WM,
		WP		WP,WR,
		KC6,KG4		WT
		KX6		KC4AAA
			to AAF,	
			KC4USA	
			to USZ	

(Call sign issuance data taken from Docket 21135, March 22, 1978)

(*) The FCC has said that they will be issuing W-by-3 calls after the N-by-3 letter calls are used. The implementation of this is cloudy. In any event, Group "C" N-calls will not be running out for at least another 8 years at the present rate of issuance!

CALL SIGNS ISSUED OUTSIDE OF...

continental United States as of April 1st.

N. Mariana I	AH0D	AH0AC	KH0AH	WH0AAG
Guam	AH2V	AH2BD	KH2BV	WH2AFQ
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Hawaii	(2)WH6Y	AH6GA	NH6DF	WH6BDB
Kure Isl.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8B	AH8AB	KH8AD	WH8AAO
Wake/Wilkes/Peale		AH9AB	KH9AB	WH9AAE
Alaska	(3)	AL7GS	NL7FO	WL7BGR
US Virgin Is.	KP2L	KP2AT	NP2BH	WP2AEJ
Puerto Rico	WP4G	KP4IJ	NP4MY	WP4DZX

NOTES:

(2.) Hawaii has only one (1) Group "A" call sign left, (WH6Z). Group "B" call signs from the AH6 by two letter block will then be issued. When these are gone, Extra Class amateurs in Hawaii will be issued Group "C".

(3.) Group "B" call signs are being issued to Extra Class in Alaska. Since only the AL7 block has been authorized for Group "B" in Alaska, Group "C" will be issued when these are gone.

The Private Radio Bureau has released their March amateur radio licence stats for March 1985. Gettysburg processsd 11,691 amateur applications. Comparative figures....

1982	1983	1984	1985
7,788	16,174	15,037	11,691

It is now taking 16 working days to process a new ham ticket application received in good order - up two days from last month and up 5 days (a full work week) from the same month last year.

March 1985 saw 2001 new amateurs join our ranks for the first time - the most in 6 months! Breakdown follows:

March 1985	Extra	Adv.	Gen.	Tech.	Novice
2001 New Hams	2	12	42	78	1866

Comparable figures for previous months:

OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
New Amateurs	961	1281	1552	1343

Total Amateur Radio Operators in FCC File....

Extra	Advanc.	General	Tech.	Novice	Total:
36496	97490	116888	80850	79051	410775
8.9%	23.7%	28.5%	19.7%	19.2%	100%

AGE: Oldest ham to have ticket processed this year was 102 years old... Youngest: only 4. Average age (for month): 32 (Year-to-Date): 30

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AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS...

issued as of the first of April 1985:

Radio District	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Advan.	Gp."C" Tech/Gen	Gp."D" Novice
0	KJ0U	KD0WC	N0GBK	KA0UJA
1	KY1Y	KB1RZ	N1DLZ	KA1MVE
2	NJ2H	KD2MC	N2FLK	KA2YCD
3	KV3L	KC3RM	N3EHO	KA3NWL
4	(1)AA4II	KJ4BP	N4LTN	KB4NNR
5	NU5Y	KE5YK	N5HVK	KA5VUH
6	WF6W	KG6QM	N6LVG	KB6IIN
7	NM7U	KE7FD	N7GZO	KA7VCU
8	NK8W	KD8XM	N8GJJ	KA8WFL
9	ND9X	KD9OK	N9FCJ	KA9TIZ

NOTES:

(1.) The fourth call district will be the first in the continental U.S. to run out of Group "A" call signs, (although there are still over 6,500 left.) The FCC is now issuing the last Group "A" block, AA4 through AK4 by two letters. No "AH4" will be issued since these are reserved for Midway Island.

CALL SIGN ASSIGNMENT SEQUENCE...

for continental United States.

Extra	Advan.	Tech/Gen	Novice
by 1	by 2	by 3	by 3 ltrs.
NA-NZ	KA-KZ	N	KA-KZ
WA-WZ	NA-NZ	W(*)	WA-WZ
by 2	WA-WZ	Gp."D"	
AA-AK	Gp."C"		
	Gp."B"		

(Except:)

NH,NP,	KH,KL	None	KH,KL,
WH,WP,	KP,WN,		KP,WC,
AH	NL,NP,		WH,WK,
	WH,WL,		WL,WM,
	WP		WP,WR,
	KC6,KG4		WT
	KX6		KC4AAA
			to AAF,
			KC4USA
			to USZ

(Call sign issuance data taken from Docket 21135, March 22, 1978)

(*) The FCC has said that they will be issuing W-by-3 calls after the N-by-3 letter calls are used. The implementation of this is cloudy. In any event, Group "C" N-calls will not be running out for at least another 8 years at the present rate of issuance!

CALL SIGNS ISSUED OUTSIDE OF...

continental United States as of April 1st.

N. Mariana I	AH0D	AH0AC	KH0AH	WH0AAG
Guam	AH2V	AH2BD	KH2BV	WH2AFQ
Johnston Is.	AH3A	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Hawaii	(2)WH6Y	AH6GA	NH6DF	WH6BDB
Kure Isl.				KH7AA
Amer. Samoa	AH8B	AH8AB	KH8AD	WH8AAO
Wake/Wilkes/Peale		AH9AB	KH9AB	WH9AAE
Alaska	(3)	AL7GS	NL7FO	WL7BGR
US Virgin Is.	KP2L	KP2AT	NP2BH	WP2AEJ
Puerto Rico	WP4G	KP4IJ	NP4MY	WP4DZX

NOTES:

(2.) Hawaii has only one (1) Group "A" call sign left, (WH6Z). Group "B" call signs from the AH6 by two letter block will then be issued. When these are gone, Extra Class amateurs in Hawaii will be issued Group "C".

(3.) Group "B" call signs are being issued to Extra Class in Alaska. Since only the AL7 block has been authorized for Group "B" in Alaska, Group "C" will be issued when these are gone.

The Private Radio Bureau has released their March amateur radio licence stats for March 1985. Gettysburg processsd 11,691 amateur applications. Comparative figures....

1982	1983	1984	1985
7,788	16,174	15,037	11,691

It is now taking 16 working days to process a new ham ticket application received in good order - up two days from last month and up 5 days (a full work week) from the same month last year.

March 1985 saw 2001 new amateurs join our ranks for the first time - the most in 6 months! Breakdown follows:

March 1985	Extra	Adv.	Gen.	Tech.	Novice
2001 New Hams	2	12	42	78	1866

Comparable figures for previous months:

OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	
New Amateurs	961	1281	1552	1343	1242

Total Amateur Radio Operators in FCC File....

Extra	Advanc.	General	Tech.	Novice	Total:
36496	97490	116888	80850	79051	410775

8.9% 23.7% 28.5% 19.7% 19.2% 100%

AGE: Oldest ham to have ticket processed this year was 102 years old... Youngest: only 4. Average age (for month): 32 (Year-to-Date): 30

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Some of the Commissioners wanted to go directly to a Report & Order which holds that local ordinances cannot regulate receive-only satellite stations unless tied to "valid, reasonable, demonstrable and clearly articulated health, safety or aesthetic objectives and constitute the least restrictive method available to accomplish such objectives."

The FCC said, however, that since "this proceeding deals with matters of significant local concern and because of the limited record compiled thus far, we have determined that the most appropriate way to respond to USCI's petition is to issue a NPRM..." Comments may be filed on or before May 8, 1985... reply comments by May 23.

United Satellite Communications, Inc. filed their petition last year. The FCC said in the NPRM that the American Radio Relay League has filed a similar request preempting zoning regulations of amateur radio towers. "Although the League requested consolidation of its petition with the USCI matter, we have elected to consider these petitions separately. Those concerns raised by Amateur Radio operators will be addressed in our future action on that request in the proceeding entitled PRB-1." USCI opposed consolidation of the two petitions.

The USCI petition cited a Chicago ordinance as an example of unacceptable zoning regulations. This law requires that an application for a construction permit be processed as a "planned development" subjecting it to the review of three governmental agencies... a public hearing and requiring a \$100,000 appli-

cation fee. USCI alleged that Chicago's ordinance was enacted for the purpose of protecting the cable industry in that city. (Amateur radio towers are exempted from the Chicago ordinance.)

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American Satellite suggested extending preemption to all local regulations which create obstacles for earth station installations. RCA said preemption is consistent with prior Commission rulings.

Firms having Direct Broadcast Satellite interests felt (naturally) that smaller dishes were acceptable but possibly not larger ones. They wanted to protect DBS operators who would be paid for their programming. M/A Com, Inc. said that any Commission order should state that the size of the antenna is an appropriate criteria for judging the reasonableness of regulations. Satellite Television Corporation urged the FCC to "rationally distinguish between smaller DBS facilities and larger 'backyard earth stations' which they claimed "are not intended for direct reception of signals and thus not an integral part of a telecommunications network."

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As a minimum, the NAB supports the immediate adoption of a temporary RF radiation limit of 25 microvolts/meter at a distance of 10 meters until the FCC can adopt more protective measures. NEMA wants a completely voluntary standard. General Electric, which makes both RF light bulbs and radio receivers said that broadcasters are already protected by FCC rules which requires that ISM operators "take steps as may be necessary to remedy interference."

BROADCAST RF RADIATION REGULATION

In an initial effort to regulate radio frequency radiation (RFR) through its licensing process, the FCC has amended its broadcast rules to provide for license denial to any commercial radio station that does not comply with the 1982 ANSI RFR emission standard.

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measures in Congress.

One of the measures would prevent cable programmers from scrambling satellite signals for two years and the other would prohibit programmers from limiting a dish owner's access to scrambled signals. The federal cable act holds that private viewing of unscrambled satellite signals is legal... and so is the reception of scrambled signals if the programmer has set up a marketing system for them.

H.R.1769 introduced March 27 would declare a two-year moratorium on scrambling to allow for the development of marketing systems... H.R.1840 declares that dish owners can not be required to buy or lease special equipment to decode scrambled satellite programming. Cable interests vowed to fight both bills "tooth and nail."

CABLE LEAKAGE! INDUSTRY-YES ARRL-NO

Comments are pouring into the FCC from parties interested in Docket 85-38 which seeks to increase cable-TV RF leakage from 20 microvolts per meter to 50 mv/meter.

The National Cable Television Association (NCTA) and several large cable systems agreed that the FCC should drop signal quality rules "because subscribers would demand performance or drop cable for another video service." Industry also said that the FCC must specifically preempt state or local governments from writing cable technical rules. NCTA suggested that the leakage limit be "increased to 100-microvolts per meter as suggested by an Advisory Committee on Signal Leakage."

The National League of Cities and individual cities and towns held that the FCC had no authority to regulate cable technical guidelines or r.f. leakage and "cities needed the right to write technical regulations to deal with local problems."

Amateur operators disagreed with industry statements that cable operators voluntarily "did better than the FCC requires." Some amateur comments cited instances (with measurements and dates) of cable signals leaking

into frequencies used by amateur operators. Some cable subscribers also wrote the FCC about leakage problems particularly those where amateur radio signals interfered with their cable reception.

The ARRL wrote that a well engineered and maintained cable system is capable of maintaining leakage limits well below 20 mv/meter. A 4-page engineering report discussing the interference effects of cable leakage on Amateur Radio VHF-FM communications in residential areas was also included in the League's comments.

The National Association of Broadcasters and CBS, Inc., asked that no rules be enacted that reduce broadcast signal quality or their programming on cable systems.

IN OTHER CABLE TV REGULATORY NEWS...

...The FCC unanimously voted to place the regulation of rates that cable systems charge in the federal domain as long as local areas are served by at least three broadcast TV stations. Cable operators will be able to increase their rates 5% a year. This effectively deregulates 90% of the nations cable systems. The April 11th ruling goes into effect on April 29, 1986, for existing systems. ...at once for all new cable franchises.

...After an undercover operation, New Orleans police have arrested two men that specialized in "illegal cable hookups". They advertised their service (which also included providing descramblers, adapters and converters) on shopping center bulletin boards!

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measures in Congress.

One of the measures would prevent cable programmers from scrambling satellite signals for two years and the other would prohibit programmers from limiting a dish owner's access to scrambled signals. The federal cable act holds that private viewing of unscrambled satellite signals is legal... and so is the reception of scrambled signals if the programmer has set up a marketing system for them.

H.R.1769 introduced March 27 would declare a two-year moratorium on scrambling to allow for the development of marketing systems... H.R.1840 declares that dish owners can not be required to buy or lease special equipment to decode scrambled satellite programming. Cable interests vowed to fight both bills "tooth and nail."

CABLE LEAKAGE! INDUSTRY-YES ARRL-NO

Comments are pouring into the FCC from parties interested in Docket 85-38 which seeks to increase cable-TV RF leakage from 20 microvolts per meter to 50 mv/meter.

The National Cable Television Association (NCTA) and several large cable systems agreed that the FCC should drop signal quality rules "because subscribers would demand performance or drop cable for another video service." Industry also said that the FCC must specifically preempt state or local governments from writing cable technical rules. NCTA suggested that the leakage limit be increased to 100-microvolts per meter as suggested by an Advisory Committee on Signal Leakage."

The National League of Cities and individual cities and towns held that the FCC had no authority to regulate cable technical guidelines or r.f. leakage and "cities needed the right to write technical regulations to deal with local problems."

Amateur operators disagreed with industry statements that cable operators voluntarily "did better than the FCC requires." Some amateur comments cited instances (with measurements and dates) of cable signals leaking

into frequencies used by amateur operators. Some cable subscribers also wrote the FCC about leakage problems particularly those where amateur radio signals interfered with their cable reception.

The ARRL wrote that a well engineered and maintained cable system is capable of maintaining leakage limits well below 20 mv/meter. A 4-page engineering report discussing the interference effects of cable leakage on Amateur Radio VHF-FM communications in residential areas was also included in the League's comments.

The National Association of Broadcasters and CBS, Inc., asked that no rules be enacted that reduce broadcast signal quality or their programming on cable systems.

IN OTHER CABLE TV REGULATORY NEWS...

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the FCC should permit voice operation in the 7050-7100 kHz segment for all amateur stations located outside the continental forty-eight states.

In a NPRM released April 9th, 1985, the FCC proposed expansion of telephony privileges in the 7075-7100 kHz segment to include the Caribbean Insular Areas and said they "wanted comments on the alternatives as well." Comments may be filed on/before June 17th... replies by July 17, 1985.
(Action by FCC, PR Docket 85-105, 4/5/85)

REACTIONS TO ALABAMA 20-kHz 2-M PLAN

The abrupt Alabama decision to adopt the 20 kHz band plan for 2-meter repeaters is causing quite a stir in the southeast... to put it mildly! Rumors and strong comments are plentiful!

Tennessee and Georgia amateurs are apparently not aware that effective July 1st, Alabama will be on a 2-meter plan that will cause them interference. The out-of-state reaction is one of dis-interest. Georgia has no frequency coordinator although one report said that a group has now been hastily formed in the Atlanta area. Alabama coordinators were handling Georgia repeaters for a while.

Many Alabama repeater owners do not seem to know who is on the Alabama VHF-UHF Council. We have learned, however, that Bill Matthews, WA4ZVJ, (Decatur, AL) is the Chairman and Coordinator, along with eight other coordinators who represent different parts of the state. I have been unable to speak to Matthews although I called him several times.

I was able to reach Bert "Hop" Hayes, K4TQR, a Council director who represents the central part of the state. Alabama is divided into four sections - each with two elected directors. These Directors are voted by Council membership. Not all repeater owners are members.

Hayes told me that the changeover was going smoothly. "I'm getting no adverse comments," he said. "Everyone understands why we are doing it. It is no problem at all. (My mail indicates otherwise.) We want to do it

now before this 'reverse split business' gets so bad we can't do anything about it."

Hayes said "We are not going to 20 kHz (spacing) to get the jump on Tennessee, Florida and Georgia. We are doing it primarily because they can't do anything until we do something. They want 20 kHz."

I asked Hayes why the Council is so 'pro-20 KHz spacing.' "We are of the opinion that within 5 to 10 years that FM is going to be a dinosaur. It will be outmoded by more efficient means of communication. We feel that narrow band compandored sideband (ACSB) will come in."

"By increasing to 20 KC we will be able to double the available repeater pairs by inserting ACSB repeater pairs in between the FM channels. Eventually FM will be phased out completely in favor of more efficient modes. You can't insert ACSB channels into a 15 KC separation scheme. ACSB needs only 3 KC bandwidth and offers twice the available range. Alabama is looking ahead."

Some repeater owners have ordered new crystals to conform to the new plan... others feel that there is no reason to buy the crystals since the council's plan is just a "suggestion". An eastern Alabama repeater owner (on a 15 kHz splinter) has "seceded" and stated he will not change, regardless, since nobody asked his opinion.

At least one well-known Birmingham repeater (WA4CYA) was left out of the new band plan and their frequency pair given to another machine. The repeater (for some unknown reason) was regarded as "non-coordinated" even though listed in the ARRL Repeater Directory. The repeater has since been offered new pairs.

Several amateurs favor the change... but not the way it was done. "It has made Alabama the laughing stock of the ham world, and will help bring about a national coordinator," another said. At least two area repeaters have changed frequency already... more will by May.

The Birmingham HamFest (May 18-19) promises to be a real shoot-out, since the

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a Volunteer Examiner. I have never had my station or operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant interest in nor am an employee of any company or entity engaged in making, preparing or distributing amateur radio equipment or license preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER? Under The W5YI Report program. If so please send a copy of your Extra Class license, this statement, and a SASE to:
W5YI-VEC, P.O. Box #10101, Dallas, Texas 75207
You will receive a booklet on how the Volunteer Program operates and how to go about giving tests immediately.

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•The April 15th issue of Electronic Week headlines "Broad Use Seen for Narrowband" and claims that the only long term solution for crowded 900-MHz "seems to be squeezing more channels out of existing bands. Narrowband technologies already exist that increase spectrum efficiency sixfold..." One radio manufacturer maintains "There is no alternative to narrowband technology - it's undoubtedly coming. The only question is when." Amplitude-compandored single-sideband (ACSB) compandors compress outgoing 30 kHz signals into 5 kHz and then expand the signals once they are received. Not everyone is sold on ACSB, however. The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) is opposed as are FM radio makers. Motorola cites the worldwide direction toward digital technology. The FCC has suggested that 2 MHz of cellular's new 12 MHz allocation operate using narrowband technology. AT&T seems to be in favor.

•Radio Marti is due to start broadcasting to Cuba from the Florida keys this month (May)... a year and a half after Congress authorized it. Marti, part of the Voice of America, will broadcast Cuban news to that country on the standard AM broadcast dial. Plans call for the station to operate 14½ hours a day. Many think that Cuba will respond with high-powered news (and interference) of their own that could disrupt the AM broadcast band. Congress has authorized payments which the FCC will dole out if this happens. The VOA said the reason for Marti's delay was the difficulty in recruiting Spanish-speaking broadcast journalists and obtaining the needed security clearances for them.

•Want to make a phone call from your restaurant dinner table? A commercial pay phone manufacturer has introduced a cordless telephone with a remote metering device for the restaurant industry. Dine-A-Phone can transceive up to 1,000 feet from the base station.

•And while on the subject, pay phone dealerships are being touted as the opportunity of the decade. Two firms (American Pay Phone Corporation/Springfield, MO and International Communications, Inc./Neenah, WI) are offering 50% discounts to dealers to distribute pay phones to local businesses. Retail for the pay phones is \$995 to \$1495.

•The price of cellular telephones is dropping. Muntz Electronics (the first to have a \$99 television set thirty years ago) is the first to break the \$1000 cellular telephone barrier. Muntz says we'll see a \$199 car phone in a few years.

•American "Woodpecker" coming? The United States is due to change their DEW-line surveillance radars to state-of-the-art OTH (over the horizon) systems next year. OTH systems have a 5,800 mile range and operate in the HF bands between 5 and 28 MHz. Radar signals reflect back from the ionosphere thousands of miles away giving OTH radar ten times the range of present day systems. Propagation is assessed by computers which shift the radar's frequency to the most favorable spot within its six hf bands. The USSR has been using OTH radar for some time as any DX operator can attest to.

REPEATER COORDINATION FORUMS....

Repeater coordination forums at the Dayton Hamvention this weekend promise to be lively. There are two scheduled. One on Friday (April 26th) between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. - the main one on Saturday (April 27th) from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Both are in Forum Room #6

The comment dates on Docket 85-22, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on repeater coordination, were extended specifically to include the Dayton Hamvention weekend. Ray Kowalski, Chief of the FCC's Special Service Division is coming to Dayton to attend this session.

Corwin D. Moore, Jr., WB8UPM, Chairman of the Michigan Area Repeater Council has put together a nationwide list of all who purport to engage in coordinating activities. This group is soliciting input from these coordinators to develop coordination criteria to be recommended to the FCC. They will also have a Coordinator's Directory available in Dayton.

Members of the amateur radio equipment industry will be holding a meeting on Thursday, April 25th, at 7:30 p.m. We will try to cover both meetings for you.